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President Signs Consular Treaty; Soviet Approval Will Put It Into Effect

By Carroll Kilpatrick
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President Johnson put the final stamp of American approval yesterday on the long-debated and long-delayed con-

sular treaty with the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Presidium has not yet acted but it is expected to do so.

Without fanfare, the Pres-

ident signed the document in his office with a secretary and newsmen as witnesses. There were no other guests and there was not a word of comment from the President.

The Senate gave its advice and consent on March 16 by a vote of 66 to 28. The treaty was first signed by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko and the then American Ambassador in Moscow, Foy Kohler, on June 1, 1964.

Ratified and Confirmed

Yesterday the President proclaimed the treaty ratified and confirmed. In a statement following Senate approval, the President said he hoped that the Soviet Union would "move promptly to ratify" so that the treaty could come into force.

Mr. Johnson hailed the document as a milestone in Soviet-American relations.

When approved by Moscow, consulates may be established by the respective signers in the other country at some future time. American consular officers would have the right

to visit within four days any American arrested in Russia.

The treaty provides that authorities "shall immediately inform a consular officer of the sending state about the arrest or detention in other form of a national of the sending state."

Last night, President and Mrs. Johnson flew to Texas for the weekend and took with them the Latin American ambassadors accredited to Washington and their wives. Only the Paraguayan Ambassador, Juan Plate, who is out of the country, was unable to make the trip. Also present were ten Latin Ambassadors who represent their countries at the Organization of American States.

Lincoln Gordon, Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, and Sol M. Linowitz, Ambassador to the OAS, also were aboard the President's plane. The ambassadorial group will stay in San Antonio for the weekend but will go today to the LBJ Ranch for a barbecue entertainment and ranch tour. The ambassadors are expected to have private talks with the President before returning to San Antonio late in the afternoon.

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